



## The Mind Lab by Unitec: Q&As

### 1. What is The Mind Lab by Unitec?

The Mind Lab by Unitec is collaboration between Unitec Institute of Technology and The Mind Lab. It draws on the expertise of both organisations to provide primary and secondary school teachers with the opportunity to learn how to integrate technology and new teaching practices into their classrooms. The first qualification to be delivered through The Mind Lab by Unitec is the Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Practice (Digital and Collaborative Learning).

### 2. What is The Mind Lab?

The Mind Lab is a specialist learning environment designed to contextualise education in a 21st century setting. Established in 2013 in Newmarket, Auckland, The Mind Lab has received significant interest and attention due to its innovative, hands-on approach to learning and its highly effective and innovative teaching methodologies that are designed to inspire students in the fields of science and technology.

The Mind Lab founder Frances Valintine was previously the Chief Executive of the Media Design School, one of New Zealand's most successful private training establishments.

The Mind Lab now forms part of a joint venture with Unitec and has been renamed The Mind Lab by Unitec. Frances Valintine will Chair the Board of The Mind Lab by Unitec and act as Education Consultant to the on-going development of the programme.

### 3. How did the relationship between Unitec and the Mind Lab come about?

At the end of 2013, The Mind Lab was receiving a lot of recognition from government and the media for its innovative approach to science and technology education. At the same time Unitec was developing a new suite of postgraduate programmes designed to recognise learnings from applied practice in the workforce.

In early 2014 a collaborative relationship was proposed that could draw on the expertise and skills of The Mind Lab with the postgraduate capabilities, applied practice and assessment frameworks of Unitec.

### 4. What is Unitec's expertise in this field?

Unitec is one of New Zealand's premier applied learning institutes; all of our teaching is focused on giving students skills and capabilities they can use in the workplace. The Mind Lab by Unitec programme fits this model.

### 5. What support is Microsoft offering?

Microsoft is supporting this exciting initiative by offering \$1000 scholarships to the first 30 students to successfully enrol in the Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Practice (Digital and Collaborative Learning).



## **PROGRAMME OVERVIEW**

### **1. What is the programme that will be offered through The Mind Lab by Unitec?**

Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Practice (Digital and Collaborative Learning)

### **2. Who is the programme for?**

The primary audience is primary and secondary school teachers in Auckland. However it would also be of great interest to early childhood and tertiary educators looking to make their learning spaces more collaborative and interactive.

### **3. Why are we offering this programme?**

In December 2013 the Associate Minister for Education Nikki Kaye identified a critical mass of 10,000 New Zealand teachers (of the 50,000+ primary and secondary teachers) needing further training and the skills to provide more relevant educational delivery methods. This programme responds to that demand. Prior to this collaboration with Unitec, The Mind Lab experienced significant demand for workshops and professional development from practising teachers.

### **4. Who will be teaching this programme?**

Learning will be facilitated by The Mind Lab by Unitec's education team.

### **5. Why is this qualification different from other providers' qualifications?**

Subject to NZQA approval, The Mind Lab by Unitec will be the first to provide an applied postgraduate qualification in digital and collaborative learning. Rather than being based on theory, this programme is work based and learning can be applied in the classroom from day one using easily available resources.

### **6. When are you expecting to receive NZQA accreditation?**

We are currently going through the accreditation process with NZQA and are very confident it will be approved well before our first intake which starts July 21, 2014.

## **PROGRAMME DETAILS: Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Practice (Digital and Collaborative Learning)**

### **1. What credit value and level is it?**

60 credits at level 8

### **2. What are the entry requirements?**

You will likely be a teacher with either:

- an undergraduate qualification
- or a Diploma in Education and 3 or more years' experience as a teacher.

Other applicants should contact us to discuss.



### **3. How long is the programme?**

The programme is 32 weeks part-time, with the first 16 weeks comprising of weekly sessions at The Mind Lab by Unitec in Newmarket, and the last 16 weeks doing applied practice in the teacher's own classroom. Online learning support and evidence collection via video or other means will be posted to an online portal.

### **4. How is the programme delivered?**

This programme uses a blended model of delivery for the first 16 weeks with 4 hours at The Mind Lab by Unitec per week with online support and work-based practice. The second 16 weeks is work-based and online.

### **5. What is the outcome for a student?**

Teachers will learn practical, hands-on tools and approaches to better engage and inspire their students through the appropriate use of technology and learning techniques. The qualification also increases employment opportunities for teachers.

### **6. What is the timetable like?**

For the first 16 weeks there are weekly four-hour sessions at The Mind Lab by Unitec offered during daytimes, early evenings and Saturdays – so you can pick which session during the week suits you the most. The second half is all work-based with online support. The study workload outside the classroom is expected to be 6-8 hours per week in your own time.

### **7. What does the assessment involve?**

The proof of learning for assessment is modelled on new postgraduate practices allowing for video, photography, blogs or visual diaries. All this is captured while you are in your workplace through the online learning portal. This is quite different to traditional written essays and examinations.

### **8. What's available via the online learning portal?**

The portal provides a personal archive and portfolio of progress and visual diary of learning. It provides the ability to interact with other educators and teachers on the programme as well as providing links to resources, examples of applied practice in-action and topics, debates and conversations on new ways to look at teaching.

### **9. Can I progress to other qualifications?**

Yes you can progress on to the Postgraduate Diploma and Masters in Applied Practice. These are all part of the postgraduate Applied Practice suite of qualifications offered at Unitec.



## OTHER DETAILS

### 1. Where is it based?

The Mind Lab by Unitec, 69 Carlton Gore Road, Newmarket, Auckland; as well as the online and work-based components.

### 2. How much does it cost?

NZ students pay \$2750 excl GST (Total \$3,162.50 incl GST).

### 3. Can I receive subsidies?

As a New Zealand student your fees already reflect that your course receives this is a SAC (government) funding. If you wish to reduce the cost further you may be able to apply for a subsidy through your school or institution's professional development budget.

You are also eligible for interest-free student loans: see [www.studylink.govt.nz](http://www.studylink.govt.nz)

### 4. Can I access Unitec services and facilities?

Yes. You will be enrolled and graduate as a Unitec student and can therefore access all of its services including the libraries, academic support services and other facilities.

### 5. How do I enrol?

Once the programme has been approved by NZQA enrolment will be through Unitec's online application function.

In the meantime, you can begin your application online and we will support you through the process once all approvals have been received.

### 6. Great! ... When can I start?

First intake starts July 21, 2014

There will be three intakes each year: March, July and November

### 7. How can I get in contact with you?

Contact Unitec on 0800 10 95 10 for information on the application process and other Unitec services.

Contact The Mind Lab by Unitec for programme and timetabling queries on (09) 964 4444 or email [info@themindlab.com](mailto:info@themindlab.com)